



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*Southern District of Indiana*

*United States Attorney*

*10 West Market Street*

*(317)226-6333*

*Suite 2100  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

*TDD (317)226-5438*

*FAX NUMBERS:*

*Criminal (317)226-6125*

*Administration (317)226-5176*

*Civil (317)226-5027*

*FLU (317) 226-6133*

*OCDETF (317)226-5953*

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**CONTACT PERSON:**

**SUSAN W. BROOKS**

**United States Attorney**

**(317) 226-6333**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO 300 MONTHS FOR  
POSSESSING A FIREARM AND AMMUNITION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that BRIAN K. ELLIS, 46, formerly of Princeton, Indiana, was sentenced to 300 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his conviction at trial on June 1, 2005, for possession of a firearm and ammunition by a felon and possession of a firearm by an unlawful drug user. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives and the Princeton, Indiana, Police Department.

ELLIS was sentenced as an armed career criminal, a provision of the United States Code that mandates a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years for possession of a firearm by a person who has accumulated three felony convictions for controlled substance offenses and

crimes of violence. ELLIS had two prior felony convictions for controlled substance offenses and one prior felony conviction for burglary. The jury convicted ELLIS of possessing a firearm on March 25, 2004, in Princeton, Indiana, when he was an unlawful methamphetamine user and after he had been convicted of a felony. The jury also found that ELLIS purchased ammunition from a Vincennes, Indiana, Wal-Mart on September 7, 2004, after he had been convicted of a felony. Judge Young found that ELLIS later used that ammunition to shoot a .22 caliber firearm at police officers during a vehicle chase in southeastern Illinois that occurred on September 8, 2004, and ended with ELLIS' arrest by Illinois State Police officers. ELLIS had a cash register receipt in his pocket at the time of his arrest showing that he purchased the ammunition the day before. A Wal-Mart security camera video tape was introduced during the trial that showed ELLIS buying the ammunition wearing the same shirt he was wearing at the time of his arrest.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Young also imposed 3 years supervised release following ELLIS's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, ELLIS must get drug treatment.

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